

Message Text

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ORIGIN ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66618
DRAKTED BY IATF:AANTIPPAS:VH
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S/S-O:JHOGANSON
----- 040101
R 140130Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WAKE FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 4104 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 10 JUN 75
QUOTE GC

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4104

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE PAROLEES

REF: STATE 133652

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONSULAR OFFICER SPENT TWO DAYS SCREENING
VN REFUGEES IN PUSAN, IDENTIFIED 570 POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE
FOR PAROLE INTO U.S. REFUGEES DESPONDENT, PARTICULARLY
OH APPROXIMATELY 400 ZHO APPEAR INELIGIBLE FOR RESETTLEMENT
IN ANY COUNTRY BUT STILL HOPE THEIR ORIGINAL INTENTION
TO REACH U.S.M WILL BE REALIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULAR OFFICER CHRISTENSON SPENT JUNE 5 AND 6
AT REFUGEE CAMP PUSAN TO SCREEN REFUGEES FOR PAROLE
INTO U.S. ACCORDING TO CRITERIA SET FORTH REFTEL ROK
HAS ACCEPTED 121 VIETNAMESE WITH FAMILY TIES IN KOREA,
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LEAVING 1,193 OF WHICH CANADA MAY ACCEPT 150, FRANCE 23,
ROC 32, AND GERMANY 1, THOUGH THESE FIGURE NOT YET FIRM.

EMBASSY HAS IDENTIFIED 204 POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

TOTALLING SOME 570 INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM ARE UNABLE
TODOCUMENT CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT WITH USG OR CLAIMED BLOOD
TIE IN U.S.S.

2. APPROXIMATELY 400 REMAINING REFUGEES HAVE NO OPTIONS
AT PRESENT. NONE OF THESE 400 WISH TO RETURN TO VN
AND ONLY ONE IS KNOWN TO WANT TO SETTLE IN ROK. MENY
HAVE RELATIVES BUT NOT IMMEDIATE FAMILY IN U.S.; MOST
HAVE CLOSE NON-BLOOD TIES WITH REFUGEES WHO MEET OUR
CRITERIA FOR PAROLE. ALL LEFT VN WITH EXPECTATIONS OF
GOING TO U.S. AND STILL HOPE THAT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY
BE ACCEPTED BY U.S.

3. CHRISTENSON WAS GIVEN FREE ACCESS TO THE CAMP AND
WAS ABLE TO CLOSELY OBSERVE AND EVALUATE CONDITIONS.
KOREAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO MAKE CAMP COM-
FORTABLE. KOREAN-STYLE MEALS ARE AMPLE AND REASONABLY
PALATABLE TO REFUGEES, WARM BEDDING HAS BEEN PROVIDED,
SHOWER AND TOILET FACILITES ARE ADEQUATE. VIETNAMESE
HAVE ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT INTERNAL LEADERSHIP AND
MAINTAIN ORDER AND DISCIPLINE LARGELY BY THEMSELVES.

4. CAMP, HOWEVER, IS NOT A HAPPY PLACE. EXCEPT FOR
NECESSARY HOSPITAL VISITS, NO VIETNAMESE ARE PERMITTED
OUTSIDE CAMP, AND ONE MONTH'S INTERNMENT HAS INFUSED
ATMOSPHERE OF LETHARGY AND PASSIVITY. REFUGEES LIVE
FROM MEAL TO MEAL. LYING ON MATS OR TALKING LISTLESSLY
BETWEEN MEANS. ONLY ORGANIZED ACTIVITES ARE TWO ENGLISH
CLASSES, SPARSELY ATTENDED.

5. MORE THAN SIMPLE ENNUI, HOWEVER, PERVASIVE MOOD IS
DEEP DESPAIR. MOST RECUGEES DO NOT KNOW WHERE FAMILY
MEMBERS NOW AREN OR WORSE, KNOW THEY ARE DEAD. JOURNEY
TO PUSAN HAS BEEN LONG AND HARD, BEGINNING FOR SOME TWO
MONTHS AGO IN DANANG. MANY DID NOT EXPECT TO SURVIVE
THEIR FLIGHT; SOME WORDER WHY THEY, AND NOT OTHERS,
DID SUGPIVEGM REFUGEES DID NOT APPROACH CONSULAR OFFICER
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VIGOROUSLY AND INSISTENTLY AS EXPECTED, BUT WERE MEEK
AND COMPLIANT. THOSE TOLD THEY DO NOT QUALIFY SLIPPED
QUICKLY AWAY; SOME WEPT. REFUGEES ARE A BEWILDERED AND
FRIGHTENED PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF CONTROL
OVER THEIR LIVES.

6. SOME LEADERS GAVE VENT TO UNDERLYING
ANGER. "THE
U.S. SPENT \$150 BILLION TO DESTROY OUR COUNTRY. WHY
CAN'T YOU SPEND A PITTANCE TO HELP US NOW?" SEVERAL
FORMER U.S. EMPLOYEES WHO TERMINATED PRIOR TO GENERAL
EVACUATION WERE QUIETLY BITTER THAT THEY WERE NOT

ELIGIBLE. PEOPLE WITH SPONSORS BUT LACKING ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS WERE STUNNED, LOOKED BLANKLY AT NOW WORTHLESS LETTERS FROM AMERICANS ASSURING SPONSORSHIP. MANY WONDERED WHY THE U.S. WAS DENYING THEM THE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO REFUGEES WHO WERE ABLE TO REACH U.S. XHBNIL AND FEEL VICTIMIZED BY A TRAGIC TWIST OF FATE: THEY BOARDED THE WONG BOAT.

7. CAPT LE KIM SA, COMMANDER OF RVN LCM-8 WHOSE CREW AND PASSENGERS WERE RESCUED BY KOREAN FREIGHTER TWIN DRAGON MADE ELOQUENT PLEA THAT HIS CHARGES BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION. HIS SHIP WAS ATTEMPTING RENDEZVOUS WITH 7TH FLEET WHEN IT SANK. MANY OF HIS CHARGES DO NOT QUALIFY UNDER PRESENT CRITERIA.

8. REFUGEE LEADERS RELATE THAT THE FRENCH CAME TO CAMP FIRST AND ACCEPTED ALL INTELLIGENTSIA; CANADIANS THEN CAME AND SELECTED BUSINESSMEN; PEOPLE NOW FEEL THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE COME TO TAKE ALL OTHERS. REPEATED CLEAR WARNINGS BY CONSULAR OFFICER THAT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ARE ABSOLUTE FAILED TO DISPEL LINGERING HOPE THAT U.S. WILL SOMEDAY TAKE THEM.

9. EMBASSY NOW PROCESSING ELIGIBLE REFUGEES AND WILL RELAY INFORMATION PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. FUTURE FOR 400 LACKING OPTIONS IS BLEAK, FOR EVEN IF ROKG WERE WILLING RESETTLE TM INESCAPABLE FACTS OF KOREAN SOCIETY PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF HARMONIOUS SETTLEMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATIONS THAT UNHCR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION. FORESE THAT THESE 400 WILL CONTINUE TO VIEW U.S. AS LAST DESPERATE HOPE AND THAT ROKG, MOREOUT OF SYMPATHY FOR REFUGEES THAN DESIRE TO EVADE RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL MOUNT PRESSURE ON U.S. TO ACCEPT THEM.

SNEUNER UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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